Reflection 3: Final Assessment

Please complete all fields.

Name:	Ruchit Bhardwaj
Company:	ZS Associates Inc
Department/Team:	Software Development
Project Name:	IC-in-a-box

1. How did you like working for this company?

It has been a joy working with ZS. The company's tagline, "Do the right thing, treat people right, and get it right," makes clear that it places a high priority on culture. It has become clear to me over my time at ZS that my fellow ZSer's genuinely follow this guideline. There was always someone there to assist me whenever I got stuck, and I never felt shy about asking for assistance. The technologies that the business employs has a lot to offer, and I had the chance to experiment with several new technologies that I had never used before. Overall, my fall internship in 2022 was one of my favorite experiences so far.

2. Did you complete your project goals?

Although the kind of work that I have had the opportunity to be a part of is never ending, I am happy to report that I have completed the work that was assigned to me. I was primarily working with a business team gathering their requirements and completing a feature from start to end. It has really been a holistic experience. I was also able to start the agile way of development and was successfully able to introduce the business teams to it. After about a couple of sprints, the teams started noticing the benefits and scrums, sprints and agile in general brings with it. I believe that my manager was satisfied with my performance.

3. What experience did you gain?

I was able to learn how ZS's PaaS (Platform as a Service) product, ZAIDYN, functions internally through my work in the software development track. I was employed in its Field Incentives department and was required to provide contributions to the software application that was under development. I had the chance to deal with database technologies like PostgreSQL as well as backend technologies like Java. I used Angular 2 to complete the tasks and stories for the front end. I was able to grasp how the Agile Methodology truly operates in the Software Development Lifecycle since I was integrated with the actual team and participated in daily scrums and sprint planning.

4. In what ways do you feel you were well prepared for this job?

The classes I took in the fall of 2021 and the spring of 2022 were extremely pertinent and beneficial for finishing my internship successfully. For instance, I learned about Angular during the Spring 2022 semester when I took the CSCI-571 Web Technologies course. I can now do UI duties during my internship at ZS Associates because the application that is being developed internally uses Angular. In addition, my courses this semester – Machine Learning for Data Science as well as Operating Systems helped me increase my understanding of the fundamentals and has been a crucial contributor.

5. In what ways do you feel you could have been better prepared?

If I had previous work experience working on big codebases, I think that would have helped me prepare for this job more effectively. My school year's projects are nothing near as substantial as the corporate programs I had to work on for my internship. Every engineer should possess the ability to comprehend and adapt a sizable codebase for every new position. I also wish I had understood earlier how important it is to make it a habit to study documentation before getting started with any coding. Along with that, I feel that academic exposure to how business teams work, could have also prepared me better to understand the business side of software development and would have allowed me to focus on the why rather than just the what and the how.

6. Other comments?

I would like to thank the University of Southern California Department and ZS Associates for giving me this opportunity to learn and grow.